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Harvard College Library



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One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

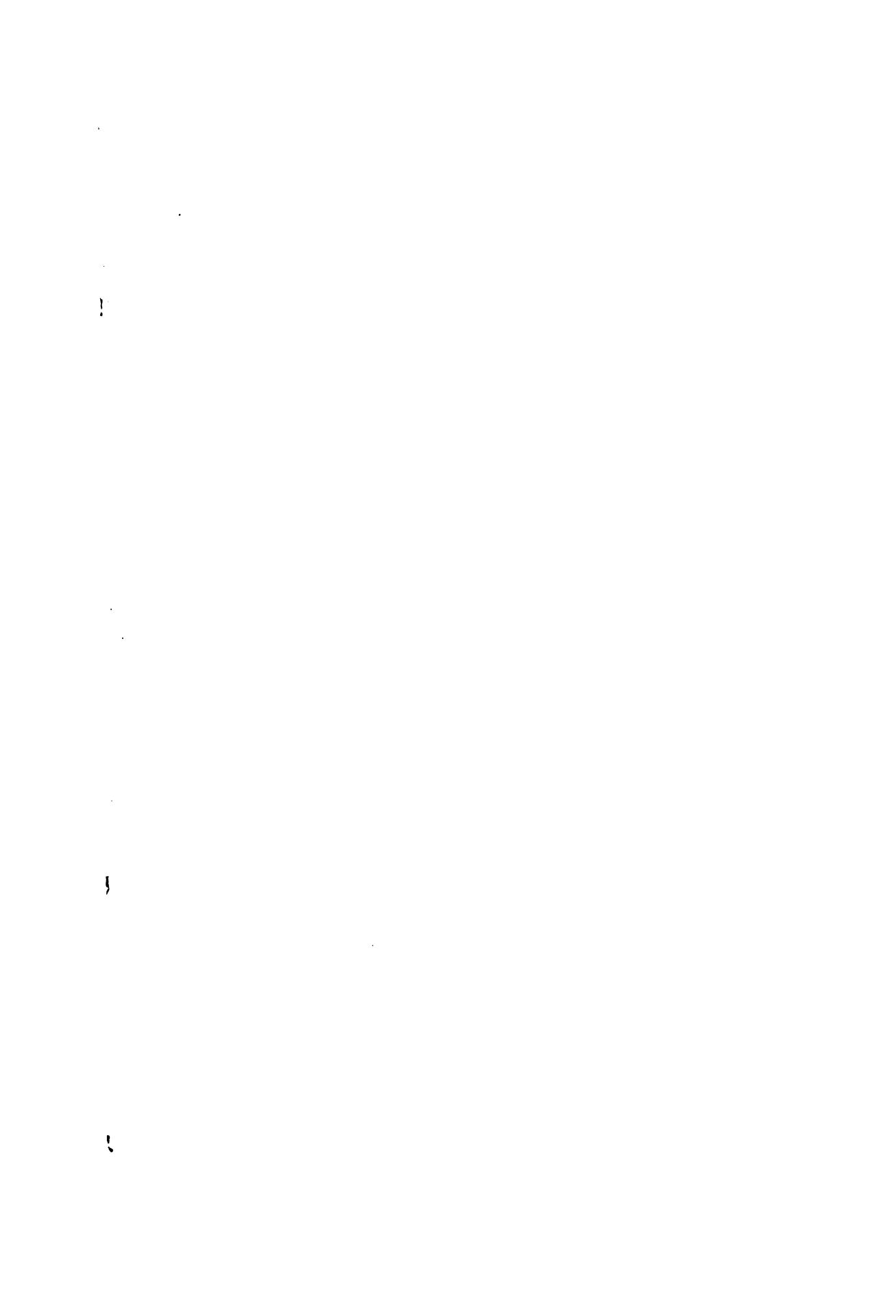
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Q. A. Brockman

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A D D R E S S

pp 1000

CONSECRATION OF MOUNT AUBURN,

BY JOSEPH STORY.

AN

A D D R E S S

DELIVERED

ON THE DEDICATION

OF THE

CEMETERY AT MOUNT AUBURN,

SEPTEMBER 24, 1831.

BY JOSEPH STORY.

TO WHICH IS ADDED AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING A HISTORICAL NOTICE
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE, WITH A LIST OF THE
PRESENT SUBSCRIBERS.

BOSTON.

JOSEPH T. & EDWIN BUCKINGHAM.

1831.

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Bright fund.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Horticultural Society, September 24, 1831,—it was

“*Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be given to the Hon. Judge Story for his eloquent, feeling, and highly pertinent Address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for the press.”

H. A. S. DEARBORN, *Chairman.*

CAMBRIDGE, SEPT. 24, 1831.

DEAR SIR—

I resign the manuscript of my Address to the disposal of the Committee of Arrangements, with my grateful acknowledgements for the indulgence with which they are pleased to view my labors. I ought to add, that it was necessarily prepared in great haste, and without any thought of publication.

I have the honor to remain,
With the highest respect,
Your obliged servant,

JOSEPH STORY.

The HON. HENRY A. S. DEARBORN,
Of the Committee of Arrangements.

A D D R E S S.

My Friends,

THE occasion, which brings us together, has much in it calculated to awaken our sensibilities, and cast a solemnity over our thoughts.

We are met to consecrate these grounds exclusively to the service and repose of the dead.

The duty is not new ; for it has been performed for countless millions. The scenery is not new ; for the hill and the valley, the still, silent dell, and the deep forest, have often been devoted to the same pious purpose. But that, which must always give it a peculiar interest, is, that it can rarely occur except at distant intervals ; and, whenever it does, it must address itself to feelings intelligible to all nations, and common to all hearts.

The patriarchal language of four thousand years ago is precisely that, to which we would now give utterance. We are "strangers and sojourners" here. We have need of "a possession of a burying-place, that we may bury our dead out of our sight." Let us have "the field, and the cave which is therein ;

and all the trees, that are in the field, and that are in the borders round about ;" and let them " be made sure for a possession of a burying-place."

It is the duty of the living thus to provide for the dead. It is not a mere office of pious regard for others ; but it comes home to our own bosoms, as those who are soon to enter upon the common inheritance.

If there are any feelings of our nature, not bounded by earth, and yet stopping short of the skies, which are more strong and more universal than all others, they will be found in our solicitude as to the time and place and manner of our death ; in the desire to die in the arms of our friends ; to have the last sad offices to our remains performed by their affection ; to repose in the land of our nativity ; to be gathered to the sepulchres of our fathers. It is almost impossible for us to feel, nay, even to feign, indifference on such a subject.

Poetry has told us this truth in lines of transcendent beauty and force, which find a response in every breast ;—

For who, to dumb Forgetfulness a prey,
This pleasing, anxious being e'er resigned,
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,
Nor cast one longing, lingering look behind ?

On some fond breast the parting soul relies ;
Some pious drops the closing eye requires ;
E'en from the tomb the voice of Nature cries ;
E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires.

It is in vain, that Philosophy has informed us, that the whole earth is but a point in the eyes of its Creator,—nay, of his own creation ; that, wherever we

are,—abroad or at home,—on the restless ocean, or the solid land,—we are still under the protection of his providence, and safe, as it were, in the hollow of his hand. It is in vain, that Religion has instructed us, that we are but dust, and to dust we shall return,—that whether our remains are scattered to the corners of the earth, or gathered in sacred urns, there is a sure and certain hope of a resurrection of the body and a life everlasting. These truths, sublime and glorious as they are, leave untouched the feelings, of which I have spoken, or, rather, they impart to them a more enduring reality. Dust as we are, the frail tenements, which enclose our spirits but for a season, are dear, are inexpressibly dear to us. We derive solace, nay, pleasure, from the reflection, that when the hour of separation comes, these earthly remains will still retain the tender regard of those, whom we leave behind ;—that the spot, where they shall lie, will be remembered with a fond and soothing reverence ;—that our children will visit it in the midst of their sorrows ; and our kindred in remote generations feel that a local inspiration hovers round it.

Let him speak, who has been on a pilgrimage of health to a foreign land. Let him speak, who has watched at the couch of a dying friend, far from his chosen home. Let him speak, who has committed to the bosom of the deep, with a sudden, startling plunge, the narrow shroud of some relative or companion. Let such speak, and they will tell you, that there is nothing, which wrings the heart of the dying,—aye, and of the surviving,—with sharper

agony, than the thought, that they are to sleep their last sleep in the land of strangers, or in the unseen depths of the ocean.

“Bury me not, I pray thee,” said the patriarch Jacob, “bury me not in Egypt: but I will lie with my fathers. And thou shalt carry me out of Egypt; and bury me in their burying-place.” — “There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebecca his wife; and there I buried Leah.”

Such are the natural expressions of human feeling, as they fall from the lips of the dying. Such are the reminiscences, that forever crowd on the confines of the passes to the grave. We seek again to have our home there with our friends, and to be blest by a communion with them. It is a matter of instinct, not of reasoning. It is a spiritual impulse, which supersedes belief, and disdains question.

But it is not chiefly in regard to the feelings belonging to our own mortality, however sacred and natural, that we should contemplate the establishment of repositories of this sort. There are higher moral purposes, and more affecting considerations, which belong to the subject. We should accustom ourselves to view them rather as means, than as ends; rather as influences to govern human conduct, and to moderate human suffering, than as cares incident to a selfish foresight.

It is to the living mourner—to the parent, weeping over his dear dead child—to the husband, dwelling in his own solitary desolation—to the widow,

whose heart is broken by untimely sorrow—to the friend, who misses at every turn the presence of some kindred spirit—It is to these, that the repositories of the dead bring home thoughts full of admonition, of instruction, and, slowly but surely, of consolation also. They admonish us, by their very silence, of our own frail and transitory being. They instruct us in the true value of life, and in its noble purposes, its duties, and its destination. They spread around us, in the reminiscences of the past, sources of pleasing, though melancholy reflection.

We dwell with pious fondness on the characters and virtues of the departed ; and, as time interposes its growing distances between us and them, we gather up, with more solicitude, the broken fragments of memory, and weave, as it were, into our very hearts, the threads of their history. As we sit down by their graves, we seem to hear the tones of their affection, whispering in our ears. We listen to the voice of their wisdom, speaking in the depths of our souls. We shed our tears ; but they are no longer the burning tears of agony. They relieve our drooping spirits, and come no longer over us with a deathly faintness. We return to the world, and we feel ourselves purer, and better, and wiser, from this communion with the dead.

I have spoken but of feelings and associations common to all ages, and all generations of men—to the rude and the polished—to the barbarian and the civilized—to the bond and the free—to the inhabitant of the dreary forests of the north, and the sultry re-

gions of the south—to the worshipper of the sun, and the worshipper of idols—to the Heathen, dwelling in the darkness of his cold mythology, and to the Christian, rejoicing in the light of the true God. Every where we trace them in the characteristic remains of the most distant ages and nations, and as far back as human history carries its traditional outlines. They are found in the barrows, and cairns, and mounds of olden times, reared by the uninstructed affection of savage tribes ; and, every where, the spots seem to have been selected with the same tender regard to the living and the dead ; that the magnificence of nature might administer comfort to human sorrow, and incite human sympathy.

The aboriginal Germans buried their dead in groves consecrated by their priests. The Egyptians gratified their pride and soothed their grief, by interring them in their Elysian fields, or embalming them in their vast catacombs, or enclosing them in their stupendous pyramids, the wonder of all succeeding ages. The Hebrews watched with religious care over their places of burial. They selected, for this purpose, ornamented gardens, and deep forests, and fertile valleys, and lofty mountains ; and they still designate them with a sad emphasis, as the "House of the Living." The ancient Asiatics lined the approaches to their cities with sculptured sarcophagi, and mausoleums, and other ornaments, embowered in shrubbery, traces of which may be seen among their magnificent ruins. The Greeks exhausted the resources of their exquisite art in adorning the habitations of the dead.

They discouraged interments within the limits of their cities ; and consigned their reliques to shady groves, in the neighborhood of murmuring streams and mossy fountains, close by the favorite resorts of those, who were engaged in the study of philosophy and nature, and called them, with the elegant expressiveness of their own beautiful language, CEMETERIES,* or “Places of Repose.” The Romans, faithful to the example of Greece, erected the monuments to the dead in the suburbs of the eternal city, (as they proudly denominated it,) on the sides of their spacious roads, in the midst of trees and ornamental walks, and ever-varying flowers. The Appian way was crowded with columns, and obelisks, and cenotaphs to the memory of her heroes and sages ; and, at every turn, the short but touching inscription met the eye, —Siste Viator,—Pause Traveller,—inviting at once to sympathy and thoughtfulness. Even the humblest Roman could read on the humblest gravestone the kind offering—“ May the earth lie lightly on these remains !”† And the Moslem Successors of the emperors, indifferent as they may be to the ordinary exhibitions of the fine arts, place their burying-grounds in rural retreats, and embellish them with studious taste as a religious duty. The cypress is planted at the head and foot of every grave, and waves with a mournful solemnity over it. These devoted grounds possess an inviolable sanctity. The ravages of war never reach them ; and victory and defeat equally respect the limits of their domain. So that it has been

* *χολυτερεπία*—literally, places of sleep. † “ *Sit tibi terra levis.*”

remarked, with equal truth and beauty, that while the cities of the living are subject to all the desolations and vicissitudes incident to human affairs, the cities of the dead enjoy an undisturbed repose, without even the shadow of change.

But I will not dwell upon facts of this nature. They demonstrate, however, the truth, of which I have spoken. They do more ; they furnish reflections suitable for our own thoughts on the present occasion.

If this tender regard for the dead be so absolutely universal, and so deeply founded in human affection, why is it not made to exert a more profound influence on our lives ? Why do we not enlist it with more persuasive energy in the cause of human improvement ? Why do we not enlarge it as a source of religious consolation ? Why do we not make it a more efficient instrument to elevate Ambition, to stimulate Genius, and to dignify Learning ? Why do we not connect it indissolubly with associations, which charm us in Nature and engross us in Art ? Why do we not dispel from it that unlovely gloom, from which our hearts turn as from a darkness, that ensnares, and a horror, that appalls our thoughts ?

To many, nay, to most of the heathen, the burying-place was the end of all things. They indulged no hope, at least, no solid hope, of any future intercourse or re-union with their friends. The farewell at the grave was a long, and an everlasting farewell. At the moment, when they breathed it, it brought to their hearts a startling sense of their own wretched-

ness. Yet, when the first tumults of anguish were passed, they visited the spot, and strewed flowers, and garlands, and crowns around it, to assuage their grief, and nourish their piety. They delighted to make it the abode of the varying beauties of Nature ; to give it attractions, which should invite the busy and the thoughtful ; and yet, at the same time, afford ample scope for the secret indulgence of sorrow.

Why should not Christians imitate such examples ? They have far nobler motives to cultivate moral sentiments and sensibilities ; to make cheerful the pathways to the grave ; to combine with deep meditations on human mortality the sublime consolations of religion. We know, indeed, as they did of old, that “ man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.” But that home is not an everlasting home ; and the mourners may not weep as those, who are without hope. What is the grave to Us, but a thin barrier dividing Time from Eternity, and Earth from Heaven ? What is it but “ the appointed place of rendezvous, where all the travellers on life’s journey meet” for a single night of repose—

“ T is but a night—a long and moonless night,
We make the Grave our Bed, and then are gone.”

Know we not

— “ The time draws on
When not a single spot of burial earth,
Whether on land, or in the spacious sea,
But must give up its long committed dust
Inviolate ?”—

Why then should we darken with systematic caution all the avenues to these repositories ? Why should

we deposit the remains of our friends in loathsome vaults, or beneath the gloomy crypts and cells of our churches, where the human foot is never heard, save when the sickly taper lights some new guest to his appointed apartment, and “lets fall a supernumerary horror” on the passing procession? Why should we measure out a narrow portion of earth for our grave-yards in the midst of our cities, and heap the dead upon each other with a cold, calculating parsimony, disturbing their ashes, and wounding the sensibilities of the living? Why should we expose our burying-grounds to the broad glare of day, to the unfeeling gaze of the idler, to the noisy press of business, to the discordant shouts of merriment, or to the baleful visitations of the dissolute? Why should we bar up their approaches against real mourners, whose delicacy would shrink from observation, but whose tenderness would be soothed by secret visits to the grave, and holding converse there with their departed joys? Why all this unnatural restraint upon our sympathies and sorrows, which confines the visit to the grave to the only time, in which it must be utterly useless—when the heart is bleeding with fresh anguish, and is too weak to feel, and too desolate to desire consolation?

It is painful to reflect, that the Cemeteries in our cities, crowded on all sides by the overhanging habitations of the living, are walled in only to preserve them from violation. And that in our country towns they are left in a sad, neglected state, exposed to every sort of intrusion, with scarcely a tree to shelter

their barrenness, or a shrub to spread a grateful shade over the new-made hillock.

These things were not always so among christians. They are not worthy of us. They are not worthy of christianity in our day. There is much in these things, that casts a just reproach upon us in the past. There is much, that demands for the future a more spiritual discharge of our duties.

Our Cemeteries rightly selected, and properly arranged, may be made subservient to some of the highest purposes of religion and human duty. They may preach lessons, to which none may refuse to listen, and which all, that live, must hear. Truths may be there felt and taught in the silence of our own meditations, more persuasive, and more enduring, than ever flowed from human lips. The grave hath a voice of eloquence, nay, of superhuman eloquence, which speaks at once to the thoughtlessness of the rash, and the devotion of the good ; which addresses all times, and all ages, and all sexes ; which tells of wisdom to the wise, and of comfort to the afflicted ; which warns us of our follies and our dangers ; which whispers to us in accents of peace, and alarms us in tones of terror ; which steals with a healing balm into the stricken heart, and lifts up and supports the broken spirit ; which awakens a new enthusiasm for virtue, and disciplines us for its severer trials and duties ; which calls up the images of the illustrious dead, with an animating presence for our example and glory ; and which demands of us, as men, as patriots, as christians, as immortals, that the

powers given by God should be devoted to his service, and the minds created by his love, should return to him with larger capacities for virtuous enjoyment, and with more spiritual and intellectual brightness.

It should not be for the poor purpose of gratifying our vanity or pride, that we should erect columns, and obelisks, and monuments to the dead ; but that we may read thereon much of our own destiny and duty. We know, that man is the creature of associations and excitements. Experience may instruct, but habit, and appetite, and passion, and imagination, will exercise a strong dominion over him. These are the Fates, which weave the thread of his character, and unravel the mysteries of his conduct. The truth, which strikes home, must not only have the approbation of his reason, but it must be embodied in a visible, tangible, practical form. It must be felt, as well as seen. It must warm, as well as convince.

It was a saying of Themistocles, that the trophies of Miltiades would not suffer him to sleep. The feeling, thus expressed, has a deep foundation in the human mind ; and, as it is well or ill directed, it will cover us with shame, or exalt us to glory. The deeds of the great attract but a cold and listless admiration, when they pass in historical order before us like moving shadows. It is the trophy and the monument, which invest them with a substance of local reality. Who, that has stood by the tomb of Washington on the quiet Potomac, has not felt his heart more pure, his wishes more aspiring, his gratitude more warm, and his love of country touched by a holier flame ?

Who, that should see erected in shades, like these, even a cenotaph to the memory of a man, like Buckminster, that prodigy of early genius, would not feel, that there is an excellence over which death hath no power, but which lives on through all time, still freshening with the lapse of ages.

But passing from those, who by their talents and virtues have shed lustre on the annals of mankind, to cases of mere private bereavement, who, that should deposit in shades, like these, the remains of a beloved friend, would not feel a secret pleasure in the thought, that the simple inscription to his worth would receive the passing tribute of a sigh from thousands of kindred hearts? That the stranger and the traveller would linger on the spot with a feeling of reverence? That they, the very mourners themselves, when they should revisit it, would find there the verdant sod, and the fragrant flower, and the breezy shade? That they might there, unseen, except of God, offer up their prayers, or indulge the luxury of grief? That they might there realize, in its full force, the affecting beatitude of the scriptures; “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted?”

Surely, surely, we have not done all our duty, if there yet remains a single incentive to human virtue, without its due play in the action of life, or a single stream of happiness, which has not been made to flow in upon the waters of affliction.

Considerations, like those, which have been suggested, have for a long time turned the thoughts of many distinguished citizens to the importance of some

more appropriate places of sepulture. There is a growing sense in the community of the inconveniences, and painful associations, not to speak of the unhealthiness of interments, beneath our churches. The tide, which is flowing with such a steady and widening current into the narrow peninsula of our Metropolis, not only forbids the enlargement of the common limits, but admonishes us of the increasing dangers to the ashes of the dead from its disturbing movements. Already in other cities, the church-yards are closing against the admission of new incumbents, and begin to exhibit the sad spectacle of promiscuous ruins and intermingled graves.

We are, therefore, but anticipating at the present moment, the desires, nay the necessities of the next generation. We are but exercising a decent anxiety to secure an inviolable home for ourselves and our posterity. We are but inviting our children and their descendants, to what the Moravian Brothers have, with such exquisite propriety, designated as "the Field of Peace."

A rural Cemetery seems to combine in itself all the advantages, which can be proposed to gratify human feelings, or tranquillize human fears ; to secure the best religious influences, and to cherish all those associations, which cast a cheerful light over the darkness of the grave.

And what spot can be more appropriate than this, for such a purpose ? Nature seems to point it out with significant energy, as the favorite retirement for the dead. There are around us all the varied fea-

tures of her beauty and grandeur—the forest-crowned height; the abrupt acclivity; the sheltered valley; the deep glen; the grassy glade; and the silent grove. Here are the lofty oak, the beech, that “wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,” the rustling pine, and the drooping willow;—the tree, that sheds its pale leaves with every autumn, a fit emblem of our own transitory bloom; and the evergreen, with its perennial shoots, instructing us, that “the wintry blast of death kills not the buds of virtue.” Here is the thick shrubbery to protect and conceal the new-made grave; and there is the wild-flower creeping along the narrow path, and planting its seeds in the upturned earth. All around us there breathes a solemn calm, as if we were in the bosom of a wilderness, broken only by the breeze as it murmurs through the tops of the forest, or by the notes of the warbler pouring forth his matin or his evening song.

Ascend but a few steps, and what a change of scenery to surprise and delight us. We seem, as it were in an instant, to pass from the confines of death, to the bright and balmy regions of life. Below us flows the winding Charles with its rippling current, like the stream of time hastening to the ocean of eternity. In the distance, the City,—at once the object of our admiration and our love,—rears its proud eminences, its glittering spires, its lofty towers, its graceful mansions, its curling smoke, its crowded haunts of business and pleasure, which speak to the eye, and yet leave a noiseless loneliness on the ear. Again we turn, and the walls of our venerable Uni-

versity rise before us, with many a recollection of happy days passed there in the interchange of study and friendship, and many a grateful thought of the affluence of its learning, which has adorned and nourished the literature of our country. Again we turn, and the cultivated farm, the neat cottage, the village church, the sparkling lake, the rich valley, and the distant hills, are before us through opening vistas; and we breathe amidst the fresh and varied labors of man.

There is, therefore, within our reach, every variety of natural and artificial scenery, which is fitted to awaken emotions of the highest and most affecting character. We stand, as it were, upon the borders of two worlds; and as the mood of our minds may be, we may gather lessons of profound wisdom by contrasting the one with the other, or indulge in the dreams of hope and ambition, or solace our hearts by melancholy meditations.

Who is there, that in the contemplation of such a scene, is not ready to exclaim with the enthusiasm of the Poet,

" Mine be the breezy hill, that skirts the down,
Where a green, grassy turf is all I crave,
With here and there a violet bestrown,
Fast by a brook, or fountain's murmuring wave,
And many an evening sun shine sweetly on my grave?"

And we are met here to consecrate this spot, by these solemn ceremonies, to such a purpose. The Legislature of this Commonwealth, with a parental foresight has clothed the Horticultural Society with authority (if I may use its own language) to make

a perpetual dedication of it, as a Rural Cemetery or Burying-Ground, and to plant and embellish it with shrubbery, and flowers, and trees, and walks, and other rural ornaments. And I stand here by the order and in behalf of this Society, to declare that, by these services, it is to be deemed henceforth and forever so dedicated. Mount Auburn, in the noblest sense, belongs no longer to the living, but to the dead. It is a sacred, it is an eternal trust. It is consecrated ground. May it remain forever inviolate!

What a multitude of thoughts crowd upon the mind in the contemplation of such a scene. How much of the future, even in its far distant reaches, rises before us with all its persuasive realities. Take but one little narrow space of time, and how affecting are its associations! Within the flight of one half century, how many of the great, the good, and the wise, will be gathered here! How many in the lowness of infancy, the beauty of youth, the vigor of manhood, and the maturity of age, will lie down here, and dwell in the bosom of their mother earth! The rich and the poor, the gay and the wretched, the favorites of thousands, and the forsaken of the world, the stranger in his solitary grave, and the patriarch surrounded by the kindred of a long lineage! How many will here bury their brightest hopes, or blasted expectations! How many bitter tears will here be shed! How many agonizing sighs will here be heaved! How many trembling feet will cross the path-

ways, and returning, leave behind them the dearest objects of their reverence or their love !

And if this were all, sad indeed, and funereal would be our thoughts ; gloomy, indeed, would be these shades, and desolate these prospects.

But—thanks be to God—the evils, which he permits, have their attendant mercies, and are blessings in disguise. The bruised reed will not be laid utterly prostrate. The wounded heart will not always bleed. The voice of consolation will spring up in the midst of the silence of these regions of death. The mourner will revisit these shades with a secret, though melancholy pleasure. The hand of friendship will delight to cherish the flowers, and the shrubs, that fringe the lowly grave, or the sculptured monument. The earliest beams of the morning will play upon these summits with a refreshing cheerfulness ; and the lingering tints of evening hover on them with a tranquilizing glow. Spring will invite thither the footsteps of the young by its opening foliage ; and Autumn detain the contemplative by its latest bloom. The votary of learning and science will here learn to elevate his genius by the holiest studies. The devout will here offer up the silent tribute of pity, or the prayer of gratitude. The rivalries of the world will here drop from the heart ; the spirit of forgiveness will gather new impulses ; the selfishness of avarice will be checked ; the restlessness of ambition will be rebuked ; vanity will let fall its plumes ; and pride, as it sees “ what shadows we are, and what shadows

we pursue," will acknowledge the value of virtue as far, immeasurably far, beyond that of fame.

But that, which will be ever present, pervading these shades, like the noon-day sun, and shedding cheerfulness around, is the consciousness, the irrepressible consciousness, amidst all these lessons of human mortality, of the higher truth, that we are beings, not of time but of eternity—"That this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." That this is but the threshold and starting point of an existence, compared with whose duration the ocean is but as a drop, nay the whole creation an evanescent quantity.

Let us banish, then, the thought, that this is to be the abode of a gloom, which will haunt the imagination by its terrors, or chill the heart by its solitude. Let us cultivate feelings and sentiments more worthy of ourselves, and more worthy of christianity. Here let us erect the memorials of our love, and our gratitude, and our glory. Here let the brave repose, who have died in the cause of their country. Here let the statesman rest, who has achieved the victories of peace, not less renowned than war. Here let genius find a home, that has sung immortal strains, or has instructed with still diviner eloquence. Here let learning and science, the votaries of inventive art, and the teacher of the philosophy of nature come. Here let youth and beauty, blighted by premature decay, drop, like tender blossoms, into the virgin earth; and here let age retire, ripened for the har-

vest. Above all, here let the benefactors of mankind, the good, the merciful, the meek, the pure in heart, be congregated ; for to them belongs an undying praise. And let us take comfort, nay, let us rejoice, that in future ages, long after we are gathered to the generations of other days, thousands of kindling hearts will here repeat the sublime declaration, “Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors ; and their works do follow them.”

APPENDIX.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE recent purchase and disposition of the grounds at Mount Auburn, has effected the consummation of two designs, which for a considerable time have been cherished by numerous members of the community, in the city of Boston, and its vicinity. One of these, is the institution of a Garden for the promotion of Scientific Horticulture ;—the other, the establishment, in the environs of the city, of a retired and ornamented place of Sepulture.

Six or seven years ago, meetings were held, and measures taken, to carry into effect the plan of a private rural Cemetery. But although there appeared to be no want of interest in the design, and of numbers sufficient to effect its execution, yet the scheme was suspended, from the difficulty of obtaining, at that time, a lot of land in all respects eligible for the purpose.

After the establishment of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, in 1829, it occurred to some of its members, that a Cemetery of the character which had been desired, might with great propriety be instituted under the auspices of this new Society, and that by a union of the interests of each institution, the success and permanency of their objects might be reciprocally promoted. Upon a notification signed by Dr. J. Bigelow and John C. Gray, Esq. a meeting of gentlemen was held at the Exchange Coffee House, November 27, 1830, for the general consideration of the subject. At this meeting it was announced that a tract of ground, of about seventy acres, at the place then called Sweet Auburn, and owned by G. W. Brimmer, Esq., would be placed at the disposal of the Society. A committee was appointed at a contemporaneous meeting of the Horticultural Society, to consider the expediency of making this purchase, and to devise measures for forwarding the design of a rural Cemetery and experimental Garden. This committee afterwards obtained leave to fill their own vacancies, and to enlarge their number by the addition of persons not members of the Horticultural Society. A report in behalf of this committee was afterwards made by Gen. H. A. S. Dearborn, President of the Society, and published in the newspapers, in which an extensive and able exposition was made of the advantages of the undertaking.

At a meeting of persons favorably disposed towards the design, held at the Horticultural Rooms, June 8th, 1831, a strong and general wish was manifested for the immediate prosecution of the undertaking. A committee of twenty was chosen to consider and report upon a general plan of proceedings. The following

gentlemen constituted this committee :—Messrs. Joseph Story, Daniel Webster, Henry A. S. Dearborn, Samuel Appleton, Charles Lowell, Jacob Bigelow, Edward Everett, George Bond, George W. Brimmer, Abbot Lawrence, James T. Austin, Franklin Dexter, Alexander H. Everett, Charles P. Curtis, Joseph P. Bradlee, John Pierpont, Zebedee Cook, jr., Charles Tappan, Lucius M. Sargent, and George W. Pratt. This committee subsequently offered the following Report, which was accepted, and made the basis of subscription for those who might become proprietors.

The Committee of the Horticultural Society, to whom was referred the method of raising subscriptions for the Experimental Garden and Cemetery, beg leave to REPORT :—

1. That it is expedient to purchase for a Garden and Cemetery, a tract of land, commonly known by the name of Sweet Auburn, near the road leading from Cambridge to Watertown, containing about seventy-two acres, for the sum of six thousand dollars ; provided this sum can be raised in the manner proposed in the second article of this Report.
2. That a subscription be opened for lots of ground in the said tract, containing not less than two hundred square feet each, at the price of sixty dollars for each lot,—the subscription not to be binding until one hundred lots are subscribed for.
3. That when a hundred or more lots are taken, the right of choice shall be disposed of at an auction, of which seasonable notice shall be given to the subscribers.
4. That those subscribers, who do not offer a premium for the right of choosing, shall have their lots assigned to them by lot.
5. That the fee of the land shall be vested in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, but that the use of the lots, agreeably to an act of the Legislature, respecting the same, shall be secured to the subscribers, their heirs, and assigns, forever.
6. That the land devoted to the purpose of a Cemetery shall contain not less than forty acres.
7. That every subscriber, upon paying for his lot, shall become a member for life, of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, without being subject to assessments.
8. That a Garden and Cemetery Committee, of nine persons, shall be chosen annually, first by the subscribers, and afterwards by the Horticultural Society, whose duty it shall be to cause the necessary surveys and allotments to be made, to assign a suitable tract of land for the Garden of the Society, and to direct all matters appertaining to the regulation of the Garden and Cemetery ; and five at least of this Committee shall be persons having rights in the Cemetery.
9. That the establishment, including the Garden and Cemetery, be called by a definite name, to be supplied by the Committee.

The protection of the Legislature of the Commonwealth, being considered indispensable, the following Act, was applied for and obtained.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

An Act, in addition to an Act, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Massachusetts Horticultural Society."

Section I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massa-*

chusetts Horticultural Society be, and hereby are, authorised, in addition to the powers already conferred on them, to dedicate and appropriate any part of the real estate now owned or hereafter to be purchased by them, as and for a Rural Cemetery or Burying Ground, and for the erection of Tombs, Cenotaphs, or other Monuments, for, or in memory of the dead ; and for this purpose, to lay out the same in suitable lots or other subdivisions, for family, and other burying places; and to plant and embellish the same with shrubbery, flowers, trees, walks, and other rural ornaments, and to enclose and divide the same with proper walls and enclosures, and to make and annex thereto other suitable appendages and conveniences, as the Society shall from time to time deem expedient. And whenever the said Society shall so lay out and appropriate any of their real estate for a Cemetery or Burying Ground, as aforesaid, the same shall be deemed a perpetual dedication thereof for the purposes aforesaid ; and the real estate so dedicated shall be forever held by the said Society, in trust for such purposes, and for none other. And the said Society, shall have authority to grant and convey to any person or persons, the sole and exclusive right of burial, and of erecting Tombs, Cenotaphs, and other Monuments, in any such designated lots and subdivisions, upon such terms and conditions, and subject to such regulations as the said Society shall by their by-laws and regulations prescribe. And every right so granted and conveyed shall be held for the purposes aforesaid, and for none other, as real estate, by the proprietor or proprietors thereof, and shall not be subject to attachment or execution.

Section II. *Be it further enacted*, That for the purposes of this Act, the said Society shall be, and hereby are authorised to purchase and hold any real estate not exceeding ten thousand dollars in value, in addition to the real estate which they are now by law authorised to purchase and hold. And to enable the said Society more effectually to carry the plan aforesaid into effect, and to provide funds for the same, the said Society shall be, and hereby are, authorised to open subscription books, upon such terms, conditions, and regulations as the said Society shall prescribe, which shall be deemed fundamental and perpetual articles, between the said Society, and the subscribers. And every person, who shall become a subscriber in conformity thereto, shall be deemed a member for life of the said Society without the payment of any other assessment whatsoever ; and shall moreover be entitled, in fee simple, to the sole and exclusive right of using, as a place of burial, and of erecting Tombs, Cenotaphs, and other Monuments in such lot or subdivision of such Cemetery or Burying Ground, as shall in conformity to such fundamental articles be assigned to him.

Section III. *Be it further enacted*, That the President of said Society shall have authority to call any special meeting or meetings of the said Society, at such time and place as he shall direct, for the purpose of carrying into effect any or all the purposes of this Act, or any other purposes within the purview of the original Act, to which this Act is in addition.

In House of Representatives, June 22d, 1831. Passed to be enacted.

WILLIAM B. CALHOUN, *Speaker.*

In Senate, June 23d, 1831. Passed to be enacted.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, *President.*

June 23d, 1831.

Approved.

LEVI LINCOLN.

A true Copy.

Attest,

EDWARD D. BANGS,
Secretary of Commonwealth.

At a meeting of subscribers, called August 3d, 1831, it appeared that one hundred lots in the Cemetery, had at that time been taken by subscription ; and that, therefore, agreeably to the terms, the subscription had become obligatory. The following gentlemen were then chosen to constitute the Garden and Cemetery Committee :—Messrs. Joseph Story, Henry A. S. Dearborn, Jacob Bigelow, Edward Everett, George W. Brimmer, George Bond, Charles Wells, Benjamin A. Gould, and George W. Pratt. At the same time it was resolved that a public religious consecration should be held upon the grounds, and the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to make arrangements for that purpose :—Messrs. Joseph Story, Henry A. S. Dearborn, Charles P. Curtis, Charles Lowell, Zebedee Cook, jr., Joseph T. Buckingham, George W. Brimmer, George W. Pratt, and Z. B. Adams.

At a meeting of the Garden and Cemetery Committee, August 8th, it was voted that General Dearborn, Dr. Bigelow, and Mr. Brimmer, be a sub-committee to procure an accurate topographical survey of Mount Auburn, and to report a plan for laying it out into lots. This sub-committee engaged the services of Mr. Alexander Wadsworth, Civil Engineer, with whose assistance they have now completed the duty assigned to them.

The public religious consecration of the Cemetery, took place on Saturday, September 24th, 1831. A temporary amphitheatre was fitted up with seats, in one of the deep vallies of the wood, having a platform for the speakers erected at the bottom. An audience of nearly two thousand persons were seated among the trees, adding a scene of picturesque beauty to the impressive solemnity of the occasion. The order of performances was as follows :—

1. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, by the Boston Band.
2. INTRODUCTORY PRAYER, by Rev. Dr. WARE.

3. HYMN,
WRITTEN BY THE REV. MR. PIERPONT.

To thee, O God, in humble trust,
Our hearts their cheerful incense burn,
For this thy word, “ Thou art of dust,
And unto dust shalt thou return.”

For, what were life, life’s work all done,
The hopes, joys, loves, that cling to clay,
All, all departed, one by one,
And yet life’s load borne on for aye !

Decay ! Decay ! 'tis stamped on all !
All bloom, in flower and flesh shall fade ;
Ye whispering trees, when we shall fall,
Be our long sleep beneath your shade !

Here to thy bosom, mother Earth,
 Take back, in peace, what thou hast given ;
 And all that is of heavenly birth,
 O God, in peace, recall to Heaven !

4. ADDRESS,
 BY THE HON. JOSEPH STORY.
 5. CONCLUDING PRAYER, by the Rev. Mr. PIERPONT.
 6. MUSIC BY THE BAND.

The following account of the scene is taken from the Boston Courier of the time.

An unclouded sun and an atmosphere purified by the showers of the preceding night, combined to make the day one of the most delightful we ever experience at this season of the year. It is unnecessary for us to say that the address by Judge Story was pertinent to the occasion, for if the name of the orator were not sufficient, the perfect silence of the multitude, enabling him to be heard with distinctness at the most distant part of the beautiful amphitheatre in which the services were performed, will be sufficient testimony as to its worth and beauty. Neither is it in our power to furnish any adequate description of the effect produced by the music of the thousand voices which joined in the hymn, as it swelled in chastened melody from the bottom of the glen, and, like the spirit of devotion, found an echo in every heart, and pervaded the whole scene.

The natural features of Mount Auburn are incomparable for the purpose to which it is now sacred. There is not in all the untrodden vallies of the West, a more secluded, more natural or appropriate spot for the religious exercises of the living ; we may be allowed to add our doubts whether the most opulent neighborhood of Europe furnishes a spot so singularly appropriate for a "Garden of Graves."

In the course of a few years, when the hand of Taste shall have passed over the luxuriance of Nature, we may challenge the rivalry of the world to produce another such abiding place for the spirit of beauty. Mount Auburn has been but little known to the citizens of Boston ; but it has now become holy ground, and

Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain,
 —a village of the quick and the silent, where Nature throws an air of cheerfulness over the labors of Death,—will soon be a place of more general resort, both for ourselves and for strangers, than any other spot in the vicinity. Where else shall we go with the musings of Sadness, or for the indulgence of Grief; where to cool the burning brow of Ambition, or relieve the swelling heart of Disappointment? We can find no better spot, for the rambles of curiosity, health or pleasure ; none sweeter, for the whispers of affection among the living ; none lovelier, for the last rest of our kindred.

The tract of land which has received the name of Mount Auburn, is situated on the southerly side of the main road leading from Cambridge to Watertown, and is partly within the limits of each of those towns. Its distance from Boston is about four miles. The place was formerly known by the name of Stone's Woods, the title to most of the land having remained in the family of Stone, from an early period after the settlement of the country. Within a few years, the hill and part of the woodland were offered for sale, and were purchased by George W.

Brimmer, Esq., whose object was to prevent the destruction of the trees, and to preserve so beautiful a spot for some public, or appropriate use. The purchase which has now been made by the Horticultural Society, includes between seventy and eighty acres, extending from the road, nearly to the banks of Charles river. A portion of the land situated next to the road, and now under cultivation, is intended to constitute the Experimental Garden of the Horticultural Society. A long water-course extending between this tract and the interior woodland, forms a natural boundary, separating the two sections. The inner portion, which is set apart for the purposes of a Cemetery, is covered, throughout most of its extent with a vigorous growth of forest trees, many of them of large size, and comprising an unusual variety of kinds. This tract is beautifully undulating in its surface, containing a number of bold eminences, steep acclivities, and deep shadowy vallies. A remarkable natural ridge with a level surface runs through the ground from south-east to north-west and has for many years been known as a secluded and favorite walk. The principal eminence, called Mount Auburn in the plan, is one hundred and twenty-five feet above the level of Charles river, and commands from its summit one of the finest prospects which can be obtained in the environs of Boston. On one side is the city in full view, connected at its extremities with Charlestown and Roxbury. The serpentine course of Charles river, with the cultivated hills and fields rising beyond it, and having the Blue Hills of Milton in the distance, occupies another portion of the landscape. The village of Cambridge, with the venerable edifices of Harvard University, are situated about a mile to the eastward. On the north, at a very small distance, Fresh Pond appears, a handsome sheet of water, finely diversified by its woody and irregular shores. Country seats and cottages seen in various directions, and especially those on the elevated land at Watertown, add much to the picturesque effect of the scene. It is proposed to erect on the summit of Mount Auburn, a Tower, after some classic model, of sufficient height to rise above the tops of the surrounding trees. This will serve the double purpose of a landmark to identify the spot from a distance, and of an observatory commanding an uninterrupted view of the country around it. From the foot of this monument will be seen in detail the features of the landscape, as they are successively presented through the different vistas which have been opened among the trees; while from its summit, a magnificent and unbroken panorama, embracing one of the most delightful tracts in New-England, will be spread out beneath the eye. Not only the contiguous country, but the harbor and the bay of Boston, with their ships and islands, and, in a clear atmosphere, the distant moun-

tains of Wachusett, and probably, even of Monadnock, will be comprehended within the range of vision.

The grounds of the Cemetery have been laid out with intersecting avenues, so as to render every part of the wood accessible. These avenues are curved and variously winding in their course, so as to be adapted to the natural inequalities of the surface. By this arrangement, the greatest economy of the land is produced, combining at the same time the picturesque effect of landscape gardening. Over the more level portions, the avenues are made twenty feet wide, and are suitable for carriage roads. The more broken and precipitous parts are approached by foot-paths, which are six feet in width. These passage-ways are to be smoothly gravelled, and planted on both sides with flowers and ornamental shrubs. Lots of ground, containing each three-hundred square feet, are set off, as family burial places, at suitable distances on the sides of the avenues and paths. The perpetual right of inclosing and of using these lots, as places of sepulture, is conveyed to the purchasers of them, by the Horticultural Society. It is confidently expected that many of the proprietors will, without delay, proceed to erect upon their lots such monuments and appropriate structures, as will give to the place a part of the solemnity and beauty, which it is destined ultimately to acquire.

It has been voted to procure, or construct, a receiving tomb in Boston, and another at Mount Auburn, at which, if desired, funerals may terminate, and in which the remains of the deceased may be deposited, until such time as the friends shall choose to direct their removal to the Cemetery; this period, however, not to exceed six months.

The principal entrance to Mount Auburn, will be through a lofty Egyptian gateway, which it is proposed to erect on the main road, at the commencement of the Central Avenue. Another entrance or gateway is provided on the cross road at the eastern foot of the hill. Whenever the funds of the corporation shall justify the expense, it is proposed that a small Grecian or Gothic Temple shall be erected on a conspicuous eastern eminence, which in reference to this allotment has received the prospective name of Temple Hill.

As the designation and conveyance of the lots requires that they should be described with reference to places bearing fixed appellations, it has been found necessary to give names to the avenues, foot-paths, hills, &c. The names which have been adopted, were suggested chiefly by natural objects and obvious associations. Taken in connexion with the printed plan, they will be found sufficient to identify any part of the ground, without the probability of mistake.

A VENUES.

Beech	Avenue	leads from	Central to Poplar.
Cedar	"	"	Cypress to Walnut.
Central	"	"	North entrance to Walnut.
Chesnut	"	"	Mountain to Poplar.
Cypress	"	"	Central to Walnut.
Garden	"	"	Cross Road to Central.
Larch	"	"	Poplar to Maple.
Laurel	"	"	Walnut round Laurel Hill.
Locust	"	"	Beech to Poplar.
Magnolia	"	"	Chesnut to Maple.
Maple	"	"	Magnolia to Garden.
Mountain	"	"	Chesnut round Mount Auburn.
Oak	"	"	Willow to Larch.
Pine	"	"	Cypress to Central.
Poplar	"	"	Central to Chesnut.
Walnut	"	"	Central to Mountain.
Willow	"	"	Poplar to Larch.

FOOT-PATHS.

Alder	Path	leads from	Locust avenue to Poplar avenue.
Catalpa	"	"	Indian ridge path to the same.
Hawthorn	"	"	Chesnut avenue to Hazel path.
Hazel	"	"	Hawthorn path to Mountain avenue.
Hemlock	"	"	Ivy path to Poplar avenue.
Holly	"	"	Poplar avenue to Ivy path.
Indian ridge	"	"	Larch avenue to Central avenue.
Iris	"	"	Ivy path to Moss path.
Ivy	"	"	Poplar avenue to Woodbine path.
Jasmine	"	"	Hawthorn path to Chesnut avenue.
Lilac	"	"	Indian ridge path to Willow avenue.
Lily	"	"	Woodbine path to Poplar avenue.
Linden	"	"	Beech avenue to the same.
Myrtle	"	"	Chesnut avenue to Hazel path.
Moss	"	"	Ivy path to Laurel avenue.
Olive	"	"	Myrtle path to Sweetbriar path.
Osier	"	"	Indian ridge path to Willow avenue.
Rose	"	"	Hawthorn path to the same.
Sumac	"	"	Moss path to Violet path.
Sweetbriar	"	"	Chesnut avenue to Hawthorn path.
Violet	"	"	Laurel avenue to Ivy path.
Vine	"	"	Moss path to Ivy path.
Woodbine	"	"	Hawthorn path round Cedar hill.

HILLS.

Mount Auburn,	Cedar hill,
Harvard hill,	Pine hill,
Temple hill,	Laurel hill.
Juniper hill,	

PRESENT SUBSCRIBERS TO MOUNT AUBURN.

Abel Adams,
Benjamin Adams,
C. Frederic Adams,
Z. B. Adams,
Nathan Appleton,
Samuel Appleton,
James T. Austin,
William Austin,
Charles Barnard,
Charles B. Brown,
G. W. Brimmer,
Jacob Bigelow,
George Bond,
J. B. Brown,
Benjamin Bussey,
Joseph P. Bradlee,
I. Barker,
J. T. Buckingham,
Edwin Buckingham,
James Boyd,
John Brown,
Levi Brigham,
Charles Brown,
Ebenezer Bailey,
Joshua Blake,
Dennis Brigham,
Jesse Bird,
Zebedee Cook, Jr.,
Charles P. Curtis,
Thomas B. Curtis,
Joseph Coolidge,
Samuel F. Coolidge,
Alpheus Cary,
George W. Coffin,
Joshua Clapp,
George G. Channing,
E. Craigie,
Joshua Coolidge,
H. A. S. Dearborn,
John Davis,
Daniel Davis,
Franklin Dexter,
Warren Dutton,
Daniel Denny,
James Davis,
James A. Dickson,
Richard C. Derby,
Alexander H. Everett,
Edward Everett,
David Eckley,
John Farrar,
Robert Farley,
Richard Fletcher,
Charles Folsom,
David Francis,
Benjamin Fisk,
B. B. Grant,
John C. Gray,
B. A. Gould,
Elisha Haskell,
Charles Hickling,
Zachariah Hicks,
Abraham Howard,
Thomas Hastings,

Henderson Inches,
William Ingalls,
Deming Jarvis,
Joseph B. Joy,
George H. Kuhn,
William Lawrence,
Amos Lawrence,
Abbott Lawrence,
Isaac Livermore,
Josiah Loring,
John Lemist,
Charles Lowell,
Isaac McLellan,
Isaac Mead,
Robert D. C. Merry,
Francis J. Oliver,
John Pierpont,
George W. Pratt,
Samuel Pond,
Edward W. Payne,
T. H. Perkins, Jr.,
Francis Parkman,
Isaac Parker,
Josiah Quincy,
John Randall,
Henry Rice,
James Read,
J. P. Rice,
J. L. Russell,
Joseph Story,
Henry B. Stone,
George C. Shattuck,
William Stanwood,
David Stanwood,
L. M. Sargent,
D. A. Simmons,
James T. Savage,
Robert G. Shaw,
Jared Sparks,
James Savage,
P. R. L. Stone,
Leonard Stone,
Asahel Stearns,
David Stone,
Charles Tappan,
Frederic Tudor,
J. F. Thayer,
Peter Thacher,
Supply C. Thwing,
Charles Wells,
Samuel Whitwell,
S. G. Williams,
Benjamin F. White,
Abijah White,
Thomas Wiley,
Thomas B. Wales,
Rufus Wyman,
Henry Ware,
Benjamin Waterhouse,
Samuel Walker,
F. S. J. Winship,
Jonathan Winship.



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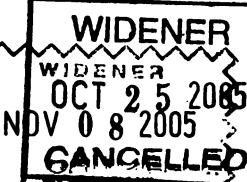


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